

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0015] on page 4, with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] The present embodiment comprises an algorithm that monitors the ink temperature and/or local ambient temperature, next to the heater and computes a correction coefficient that adjusts the supply power to the heater prior to the melt cycle. FIGURE 2 shows a thermistor device **50** associated with the plate **16** through thermistor pads **52**. The thermistor device is operatively connected with the control system **20** to provide a signal representative of a plate temperature near the location of the thermistor. The thermistor is thus disposed on a fin portion **60** of the plate spaced from the ink melt zone **32**. Although the thermistor device **50** is illustrated in the present embodiment for measuring a parameter representative of temperature, other well known temperature sensing devices could be employed, i.e., thermometers, electrical sensors, chemical sensors or the like. The temperature sensed by the thermistor can be a parameter indicative of ambient temperature to the system or the ink stick temperature prior to the start of a melt duty cycle.